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Centennial History

SHELLSBURG, IOWA

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Airview of Shellsburg

CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION
PIONEERS '54
Shellsburg JUNE 18th & 19

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HISTORY OF SHELLSBURG, IOWA

Beginning of Iowa and Benton County

In Shellsburg's Centennial Year of 1954, the community looks back on one hundred years of interesting and inspiring history.

Brief mention should be made on the background of our state history. The written history of Iowa based on the white man's record and not on the legends of the Indians began in 1673 when Joliet, the trader, and Father Marquette, the French missionary, drifted out of the mouth of the Wisconsin river into the broad expanse of the Mississippi.

During the next 160 years the land that is now Iowa was a favorite hunting and trapping ground for a number of tribes of Indians. Adventurers, miners, fur buyers, and traders followed the worn trails along the valleys and over the prairies.

Iowa has been under three flags — France, Spain and the United States. The name Iowa according to one legend is said to have come from a small band of Indians who named it "Ioway" meaning "this is the place." Another story says that Iowa means "beautiful land."

The Sac and Fox federation of two Algonquin tribes had villages along the Mississippi river, where they cultivated land and had permanent homes. They had migrated originally from the Atlantic coast and before settling in Iowa had united for defense. Chief Black Hawk was the military leader of the Sac tribe. The Mesquakie Indians now living in Iowa, are a branch of the Fox tribe.

The part of the Wisconsin Territory now known as Benton County was unexplored in 1836. A small portion of the territory now in Benton County was included in the second Black Hawk purchase of 1837. The west line of that purchase crossed the Cedar river near the west line of Benton Township, and included nearly one tier of townshps on the east side of the county. Canton Townshp in which Shellsburg is located, was one of these.

The earliest settlers in 1839-1840, were very near the Indian line. Much of the larger part of Benton County was in the possession of the Sac and Fox Indians until 1843.

Benton County was created in 1837 and was much larger than it was later. In February, 1843, it was reduced in size to its present limits. However, Benton County was attached to Linn County for judicial, election and revenue purposes from 1840 until 1846. It was also in 1846 that Iowa became the 29th state to join the union.

Benton County was named for Thomas Hart Benton who for thirty years was United States senator from Missouri.

Early Pioneers

Our early pioneers were a strong, sturdy group of fearless folks. Many left homes of comfort to come to the frontier where life was full of dangers, privations and hardships. But they were hard-working, thrifty, friendly, optimistic and willing to take chances. The lure of a vast new country with fertile land led them on to break the prairie and start life anew. Most of the early settlers were of the third generation of Americans and many came from the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

Samuel M. Lockhart, from Ohio, is said by some to be the first white man to build a cabin in the county and break a little track of virgin prairie land. His claim was made in 1839, near where Urbana now is. Other early settlers were James Scott, Samuel K. Parker, who made a claim embracing the timber which is still called "Parker's Grove," Englishmen George Wright and John Smith, Gilman Clark and Stedman Penrose who settled south and east of Shellsburg.

In 1841, Loyal Fuller North located about two miles northwest of Shellsburg. Others about that time were Reuben Buskirk, James Downs, Thomas Way, Price Kendrick, Beal Dorsey, Charles Hinkley, Jacob Bonsall, A. D. Stephens, J. W. Filkins, Joseph Remington, Abner R. and Edwin B. Spencer, Henry Dilling and perhaps others.

In April, 1842, Jacob Cantonwine made a claim where Shellsburg now stands. L. D. Bordwell bought out the claim of Wright and Smith who had built a good log cabin, fenced, broke and had under cultivation about forty acres. John Mason, George Sanders, John Royal and others came in 1842 and 1843.

First Election in Benton County

The first election in which any of the citizens of this county participated was held in August, 1843, at which time they voted for officers of Linn County to which Benton was then attached.

The organic act approved January 17, 1845, creating the territory within its established boundaries into Benton County went into effect March 1, 1846. The first election after the organization was in April, 1846, at which time there was but one voting precinct in the county. This was at Parker's Grove a few miles southwest of Shellsburg. Twenty-nine votes were cast with the following men elected: Stedman Penrose, Edwin B. Spencer and Samuel K. Parker, county commissioners; John Royal, sheriff; David S. Pratt,

commissioner's clerk; Irwin D. Simison, recorder; Fielding Bryson, coroner; Beal Dorsey, treasurer; Price Kendrck, assessor; Jonathan R. Pratt, judge of probate; Fielding Bryson, Charles Cantonwine and Stephen Holcomb, justices of the peace; Price Kendrick, Beal Dorsey and Samuel Stephens, constables.

These officers were only chosen to hold until the general election in August at which time there were two voting precincts — Canton on the west and Polk on the east side of the river. Between forty and fifty votes were cast. Men elected were Samuel Lockhart, Loyal Fuller North and Charles Cantonwine, county commissioners; David S. Pratt, clerk; James Downs, sheriff; Thomas Way, coroner; Lester W. Hayes, recorder; S. L. Morse, treasurer; Price Kendrick, assessor; James Denison, judge of probate.

"Egypt" of Benton County

The "Egypt" of Benton County was located in dense timber on the eastern part of Benton Township, about three miles north of Shellsburg. As the county began to be more populous, a class of desperadoes, taking advantage of the fact that it was located on the very outskirts of civilization, organized themselves into bands that were the terror of the peaceable, honest and law-abiding citizens. These outlaws, systematically engaging in horse stealing and other "amusements" generally indulged in by frontiers bandits, acquired such power and influence in the county that, for a time, they forced the suspension of all law and judicial proceedings.

The three years, 1848-1851, are generally referred to by old settlers as the "Dark Ages," for between the horse thieves and robbers on the one side, and the self-styled "Regulators" or "Vigilante Committees", on the other, no honest peace-loving citizen was safe from molestation. No courts were held during that time.

Even as late as 1880 there was lawlessness in this area. In 1848 there was lynching and flogging and around 1878 it was burning and shooting. Two families who were suspected of petty thievery had several of their buildings burned and masked men shot at them. After that several suspected persons fled at their first warning from the "Regulators."

In 1878, John Mason, reportedly of a lawless nature, was going from Cedar Rapids to Benton Township. As he neared his destination he felt something was wrong. He leapt from his buggy to seek shelter in the brush, but was shot and mortally wounded. Fisher, a neighbor, took him to his home. Then he was taken to Millard Tracy's cabin. A little later

a group of hooded ruffians came in to the house, went straight to Mason's room and fired a volley of shots at him as he lay defenseless. Such was the law of the times.

Canton and Nearby Townships — around 1850

Probably the first white children born in Benton County in the early 1840's were Gilman Clark's daughter, Susan; William Penrose's son, Stedman; Loyal F. North's daughter, Mary and Lyman D. Bordwell's daughter, Lucinda.

In 1842 Reuben Buskirk's funeral was the first in the county. Since there was no lumber, a linn tree was hollowed out and used for the burial.

The government surveyed the land comprised in Benton County in the years 1843-4-5. Land sold for $1.25 an acre.

The first land entry in Benton County was Edwin B. Spencer of Benton Township on November 1, 1845. Other early ones in the same township were Charles Cantonwine, George and Hugh Brawdy. John Parker, an Irish farmer who settled in Benton Township the fall of 1849 became a large land owner. When he first came he worked for Thomas P. Johnson for twelve dollars a month. Joseph Garriher came from Pennsylvania in 1853. He brought into Benton County twenty-seven head of horses, the first ever introduced here for the purpose of being fed and raised. He was considered the pioneer stockman in that line. The second year of his residence in Benton Township he went to Missouri and brought with him the first steers which were ever fed here.

First land entries in Canton Township were Stedman Penrose and Edward Karlsback in 1845 and Loyal F. North, Daniel Ousted and Charles Belnap in 1846. William Fry came from Pennsylvania in 1850 and settled just west of Shellsburg. At that time there was but one house on the town site and only two cabins between there and Vinton. James L. Selleck who located in the southeastern corner of Canton Township in 1852, said that when he first came here he could ride fifteen miles west or south without seeing even a log house. Joseph L. Budd came from New York in 1856. He was a skilled and scientific nurseryman and horticulturist. For twenty-two years he was a professor at Iowa State College.

The Everett Elson farm, on the south edge of Shellsburg, has been in the family for over a hundred years. Mr. Elson has several land grants and deeds that belonged to his grandfather, George Washington Miskimen. Some of the land was purchased in 1851. One of the deeds was "ex-

ecuted and delivered" in the presence of Jacob Seamer and Emanuel S. Fluke, one of the proprietors of Shellsburg when it was platted in 1854. Mr. Elson has the Bible that was given to George W. Miskimen by his mother when he left Ohio in 1850, and also the compass that Mr. Miskimen used when he came to Iowa and walked from Muscatine to Lewis Bottom. The Warren Pangborn farm has been in the family name since March 16, 1854. At that time Levi Pangborn, grandfather of Warren, purchased his first forty acres, located three miles southwest of Shellsburg.

First land entries in Taylor Township were in 1846 by William A. Bryson, Samuel Morse, John Renshaw, Samuel K. Parker, Joseph R. Strawn and Gideon B. White.

Elias Loan made the first land entry in Eden Township in 1849. V. Bogle came to the township in 1852. For about a year he was the only resident in that section of the county, there being at that time not a single house between his hut and the village of Blairstown. Peter Kuhn came from Ohio in 1853. I. N. Chenoweth came the same year from Indiana. He was one of the first and most successful fruit raisers of the county and eventually had a beautiful orchard of 2500 trees.

First land entry in Fremont Township was made by Edward Connolly in 1853. William A. Stewart is credited with building the first house in the township.

In 1854 James S. Easley made the first land entry in Eldorado Township. The first settler was said to have been David Calkins, a blacksmith and skillful mechanic.

Postoffices

On October 20, 1851, Loyal Fuller North was appointed postmaster of Potatoe Hill postoffice, which was established at his little log cabin home two miles northwest of Shellsburg. It served the area which now includes the town of Shellsburg. Mrs. North wished to have a "more dignified and euphonious name" than Potatoe Hill, so on November 5, 1852, it was changed to Beulah and thus it appeared on the county maps of that period.

The Beulah postoffice was moved to Shellsburgh, November 24, 1856. David Robb was the first postmaster.

The contract for carrying the mail at one time was awarded to David King of Kingston (later absorbed by Cedar Rapids). The mail, however, was actually carried by Greenburg Luck, who made the trip once a week on horseback leaving and gathering mail from little stations on the road traveled by the stage coach. A regular stagecoach route was established between Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls sometime in the 1850's.

According to the records of the Post Office Department the Shellsburg post office was spelled "Shellsburgh" until about July 23, 1897. However, in popular usage the "h" was often dropped, although Mrs. Gage Coupland has a card written in 1891 on which the post office cancellaton was "Shellsburgh" and the lady who wrote the card also spelled the town the same way.

The present Shellsburg postmaster is Kathleen Nettell who has served the community for fifteen years. Gage Coupland has been rural mail carrier for thirty-four years.

Shellsburg — 1854

Shellsburg was surveyed by H. M. Drury, deputy county surveyor, June 16, 1854. It was the third town site surveyed in Benton County. The original plat contained twenty-four lots of ordinary size with two streets — Main and Pearl.

The town was laid out by Jacob and Christiana Cantonwine and Emanuel S. and Mary Fluke, proprietors. Cantonwine later moved to Oregon and Fluke to Missouri.

There are two theories on how Shellsburg was named, or perhaps the resulting name was a compromise. One explanation is that John Sells, a pioneer of Canton Township, wished to have the town named for himself, and so for a time it was called Sellsburg. The proprietors or the people of the town preferred another name, so they compromised with Sells and changed it to Shellsburg. However, there still remains a Sells Street.

The other theory is that Shellsburg was named for Schellsburg, Pennsylvania by Jacob Cantonwine who had come from that state.

Coming of the Railroad
December, 1869

In the early days, before the coming of the railroad, Shellsburg became quite well known as a thriving station on the Cedar Rapids and Vinton stage line. January 6, 1855 Western Stage Co. established a tri-weekly line of stages between Vinton and Cedar Rapids. John Weare's line of stages operated between Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls. Vinton had daily stage communication with Cedar Rapids in the spring of 1855. In 1856 the Western Stage Co. put on a daily line of four-horse coaches between Iowa City and Cedar Falls.

John White opened up the first tavern on the old stage line. It was a farmer's cabin where for many years the travelers who passed through on the stage, as well as the

prospective locators, stopped and received the best of hospitality that was on the menu at that early date in the town's history. At this point horses were changed to continue on the journey. Vanche Miller is the present owner of the farm. It is said the stage road went across this farm and on to the alley-street by the Presbyterian parsonage and then across the Louis Brehm farm. The road to the west went near the Reverend Charles Bryden farm.

In 1865 an organization was effected at Cedar Rapids called the Cedar Rapids and St. Paul Company, which promised to build a road through Benton County by way of Shellsburg and Vinton for a donation of $75,000, and the county's swamp lands, valued at $15,000, a total of $90,000. Grading was begun at once but in 1868 the franchise and grading became the property of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern.

In December, 1869, the first little wood-burning engine made its first trip through Shellsburg, to Vinton, and all those subscribing toward the $75,000 fund received a free ticket to Vinton and return. These tickets cost some of the parties $400, the amounts subscribed. On November 30, 1869, as an expression of their appreciation, the Shellsburg residents gave a banquet for the promoters of the railroad. About two hundred and fifty guests were present. Later the road was sold to the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific.

Mrs. Jennie Roll, who is 93 years old, remembers well when her teacher took all her pupils to the depot to see the first train come through.

The first three or four years the road was in operation hundreds of carloads of railroad ties and bridge timber were cut and shipped from Shellsburg. Sam Shannon was by far the largest shipper.

After the advent of the railroad Shellsburg grew more rapidly in both wealth and population until it became one of the business centers of the county.

Shellsburg Incorporated

Shellsburg was incorporated as a town or village of the third class in 1870. Its first officers were J. C. Summers, mayor; J. Y. Stier, treasurer; F. P. Sterling, marshal; A. J. Dickinson, Z. Blackburn, Elias Adams, E. H. Cowell and I. P. Noe, councilmen, J. H. Miller, recorder.

J. C. Summers, the first mayor of the incorporated town, was born in New Jersey in 1832. He became a resident of Benton County in 1852. Soon after the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the army and was later promoted to colonel of his regiment. Colonel Summers was also a prominent leader of the old Greenback party.

A group of early business men and farmers: Back row, Blackburn, Grey and Noe; front row, White, Straight, Runyon, Kreader.

A character study of Mrs. I. P. Noe and Mrs. William Lewis taken before 1900. The two women were often seen going to prayer meeting carrying their lanterns.

Democratic flag raising in 1884 during the campaign for Grover Cleveland. The larger building was George Dunn's Wigwam Gallery which stood on the corner of Pearl Street where Richart Blattler now lives. It was later moved to a different location. The edge of Rutan's blacksmith shop is at the extreme right.

The old Bowe Mill located two miles east of Shellsburg on the Benton-Linn County line. The foundation is all that remains.

Mayors after Summers were: A. Thompson, R. Bowe, W. H. Brinkerhoff, I. S. Boles, William Kreader, J. R. Porter, Roderick Royce, J. L. Bigley, Alex Runyon, sr., D. K. Harbert, Henry Strawhecker, L. A. Dickinson, G. W. Holmes, J. M. Hayes, John N. Alden, O. M. Johnson, O. E. Trego, William Richart, F. A. Moeller, Reuben Senft and Frank Tumilty. Town clerks who held office for many years were Dell Files, H. W. Heath and John Quinn. Recent town clerks were Clare Surgeon, Richard Kibbie, W. H. Linder, Carl Penney and Gladyce Boyer.

Present town officers elected for 1954-1956 are: Earl Maxson, mayor; Everett Beatty, Robert Bergen, Ray Boyer, Robert Bull and John Hyde, councilmen. Treasurer is Claude Blattler and clerk is C. W. Hoon. William Nieland is marshal and Thurley Mullinex the town maintenance man.

Education

The old frame schoolhouse built about 1870. This picture taken about 1887. Some of the family names identified are: Gingery, Hanover, Mullinex, McMann, Rathburn, Sison, Bosworth, Deckerow, Boles, Elson, Moody, Bigley, Voris, Bixby, Wilkinson, Speak, Twamley, Shomler, Carver, Lewis and Stookey. The teacher was Blanche Straight.

The first school house for Shellsburg is said to have been a little log structure on the John White farm located later on what was the Leon Strawhecker property in the eastern part of town. Later there was a school, believed to have been a log structure, located between the W. Y. Soden home and the Fiebelkorn Welding Shop.

In March, 1870, an election was held to form the independent district of Shellsburg. Only one out of nineteen votes was cast against the measure. A small frame school house was built on the vacant lot a block south of the present school. H. E. Warner and Miss Haines were the teachers. In May it was divided into three grades or rooms.

Shellsburg's first brick school — original section built in 1875.

This building soon became too small so it was decided to build a larger school near-by. In 1875 a brick building was constructed at a cost of $2,500. Richard Noeller built the foundation and Nicholas Boos was the carpenter. W. H. Brinkerhoff served as principal, Anna Phelps had the intermediate grades and Clara Blackburn the primary grades. When the brick school became over-crowded, the primary grades were taught in the frame building.

In 1878 the board was Elisha Runyon, A. J. Dickinson, B. R. Dwigans, F. W. Deckeraw, H. H. Meskimen and D. M. Stern. J. H. Miller was secretary and Thomas Gray, treasurer.

Brick school with another addition built on in 1892.

In 1892 two more rooms were added, making four rooms in which ten grades were taught. A little later another grade was added making eleven. The twelfth grade was added during the 1914-1915 school year. At the first commencement exercises with a four-year high school there were eleven graduates. The building then had six rooms and the twelve grades. Soon the school was too small again and the primary grade was taught in a business house downtown.

The Shellsburg school was consolidated in 1920.

Present Shellsburg Consolidated School completed in February, 1922.

The present consolidated school was completed in February, 1922. Contracts were for $126,952, exclusive of equipment. Miss Emma Weber, of Vinton, who was teaching first grade in Shellsburg at that time, said that her students were the first to move into the new building and begin class. Many parents and visitors were present that day.

Kindergarten was added in 1949 with Dolores Britson Maynard as teacher.

Teachers for the 1953-1954 school year were Superintendent L. C. Johnson, Don Holloway, Edna Staley, Rosemary Jennings, Shirley Weis, Dale Holstrom, Joe Cashman, Waneita McElroy, Roberta Boies, Evelyn Tumilty, Ruby Mullinex, Venice Fish, Lora Alsever, Foleita McElroy and Marie Holloway. New teachers elected for the 1954-1955 school year to replace several who resigned are Robert Sasse, Helen Lindmark, Marie Cantonwine, Jerry Engle, Marion Tinker and Phyllis Matheny.

School custodian is William Shimek. Amelia Kibbie and Nellie Marie Kibbie are in charge of preparing the hot lunches. Bus drivers are Clell Hoon, Boyd White, Jay Nabholtz, Robert Bull, Peter Bergen and LeVerne Bonesteel.

Walter Linder is president of the school board. Other members are: Herbert Hayes, Edward Charlier, Arthur Roehr and Mrs. Everett Beatty. Secretary is George Koch and treasurer is Claude Blattler.

Shellsburg's Newspapers

The Benton County Record was first published May 9, 1874. Miss Mattie Johnson has one of the original Vol. I, No. 1 papers of that date. W. H. Brinkerhoff was the publisher and editor. Later O. J. Smith assisted him as publisher. This weekly paper was printed until about 1883.

The Saturday Morning Call, of Shellsburg, was founded October 11, 1884, by Thomas A. Carver. He continued as its editor and proprietor until early in the spring of 1886, when he sold it to Carrie T. Horton.

In July of the same year Charles F. Stookey and F. C. Summers purchased the business and conducted it until August, 1888, when the firm dissolved by mutual consent, Mr. Summers retiring. During Mr. Stookey's able conduct the name was changed to The Shellsburg Call. In 1909 the business was taken over by J. E. Albertson and Mr. Stookey returned to the practice of law. Mr. Albertson published the paper under the name of Shellsburg Advance until 1919. After that it changed hands several times and was finally discontinued about 1925 with Thomas Carver as publisher.

Banks

The Farmer's Exchange Bank of Shellsburg which opened for business October 9, 1874, was the town's first financial institution. It had a capital of $30,000. The first directors were J. L. Budd, John Parker, P. M. Harbert, J. H. Miller and B. R. Dwigans. John Miller operated the bank.

The Farmer's Exchange Bank purchased by Perry Harbert in 1888 and transferred to the Peoples Savings Bank in 1906. From left to right: Perry, Albert and D. K. Harbert.

Perry M. Harbert took over the ownership of the bank in 1888. The business was continued by him and his sons, David K. and Albert N. until its transfer to the People's Savings Bank of Shellsburg in 1906. Mr. Harbert was an Ohio farmer during his earlier years; came to Benton County in June, 1853, and for thirty-five years was a prosperous farmer in Canton Township. After disposing of their banking business the Harberts moved to Cedar Rapids.

The People's Savings Bank originated from the private business of Perry M. Harbert, August 1, 1906. J. M. Beatty was president; Charles F. Stookey, vice-president and A. K. Rife, cashier. The same officers were there in 1910. Directors were J. G. Carrier, J. W. McClintock, S. E. Railsback

and W. W. Hatfield. Besides conducting a general savings bank business, the management had a safety deposit department which was well patronized. In August, 1909, the deposits of the bank amounted to $191,536. The capital stock was $25,000. During the depression the State Banking Department closed the bank in November, 1932.

In 1914 a second bank was started in Shellsburg with William Dean as cashier. It was known as the Shellsburg Savings Bank. Dean later resigned and William Penrose took his place as cashier. The bank closed July 3, 1933 for the fourth of July holiday and never reopened. A. F. Rammelsburg was president and Penrose, cashier. Shellsburg was without a bank for about a year.

In 1934 the Urbana Savings established a branch office in Shellsburg, called Urbana Savings Bank. Clell Hoon is cashier.

Informative Bits About Early Shellsburg

The history of Benton County from 1850-1860 was one of its most important times as it was during those years that many new businesses and enterprises were started and developed.

Some of the current prices in 1855 were: beef, 4-5c per lb.; butter, 20c per lb.; corn and oats 25c per bu.; wheat, 75c per bu.; corn meal, 45c per bu.; eggs, 12½c doz; flour, $7.00 per bbl.; ham, 6c per lb.; lard, 8c per lb.; potatoes, 50c per bu.; pork, $3.50 per hundred; wood, $2.00 per cord.

In 1860 Shellsburg had about 150 inhabitants. The hotel was kept by L. A. Lebor. A flouring-mill had been built a short time before by Clark & Oyler, and Denison & Hadley had a pottery in successful operation.

Shellsburg's population in 1868 was 450. From twenty business houses the total sales in 1868 amounted to $214,000.

The first hotel in the incorporated town was built close to where the town pump stood, east of the Standard Service Station. It was run by Fero, then Sam Willson. Andy Lewis owned it when it burned. Dell Files started the Park Hotel in 1870.

Oscar Trego has a Public Sale bill of 1879. Some of the things offered for sale were: 1 Manny reaper and mower combined, two stirring plows, 1 corn cultivator, 2 double and 1 single shovel plows, 1 pair of bob sleds, 1 new hay rack and 1 grain cradle. Terms of sale were as follows: All sums of $5, and under, cash; on larger sums a credit of 12 months will be given on properly secured notes, without interest if paid when due; otherwise to draw 10 per cent interest from date. 10 per cent discount for cash.

Shellsburg grew rapidly after the railroad came through and by 1875 the town had over 600 residents. There were four physicians and surgeons, two attorneys, a furniture store, two drug stores, lumber yard, a tailor and various other shoe stores, grocery and dry goods stores, implement dealers and such like.

At one time large amounts of brick and tile were made at Shellsburg. Sam Shannon was one of the largest operators.

Men working at Sam Shannon's brick yard which was located just east of the Greenwood residence in the west end of town. Picture taken about 1888. Men pictured are: Ed Mullinex, Henry Wilson, Mr. Turkall, Jim Stiver, Al Williams, August Krueger, Roe Race, Bill Starks, Charles Williams.

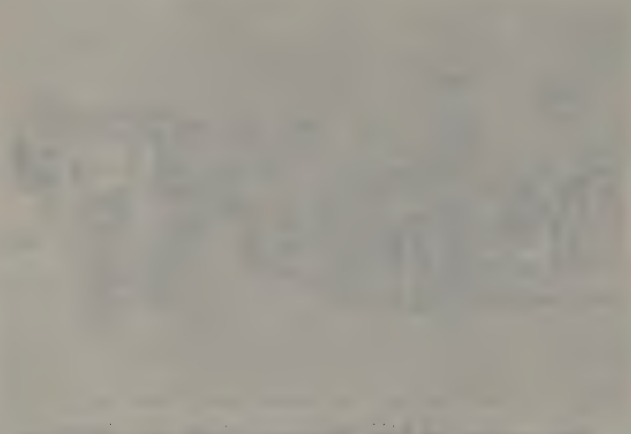
There used to be several nurseries around Shellsburg. Royce, Budd and Ford were some of the owners.

Shellsburg has been a heavy sufferer financially from several destructive fires. One of these was in 1872 when eighteen buildings were burned with a loss of about $30,000. Hanover's Meat Market, a frame building on the corner where the Farmer's Market now is, was burned in 1893.

Billy Dwigans has been the town's only midget. He was only 29½ inches tall though he was well-proportioned and intelligent.

Two small cemeteries near Shellsburg have almost been forgotten. The Crawford Cemetery is a mile and a half southeast of Shellsburg, and the Greenwood Cemetery is a few miles northeast of town.

William O'Brien recalls when he was a small boy there were a lot of Indians around. Although they frightened him he said they never harmed anyone.



Mrs. Shirley Thompson remembers vividly when she saw her first bananas and was given one to eat by a salesman. She also recalls when vanilla ice cream first came on the market she was not allowed to eat any because it was said some people became ill when they ate it.

In Shellsburg's Saturday Morning Call for August 14, 1890, it said that 3500 people met in a "pleasant little grove near the depot" for an Old Settler's Reunion. In the same paper was an advertisement of Dr. I. S. Boles, physician and surgeon who said "Calls to any part of the country, either day or night, promptly attended to."

In 1897 it was said "Shellsburg is not without music having one of the best bands to be found in the country. W. M. DeFoe, its efficient leader, is one of the most skillful players of our acquaintance and under his guidance the band each Tuesday evening discourses some elegant and pleasing melodies."

An old picture of Shellsburg showing wooden awnings, sidewalk and hitching posts.

The following are items from the Shellsburg Call of September, 1897.

J. A. Williams, Marshal, said: "Notice is hereby given that all stock impounded by the Marshal will be sold on Monday and Friday of each week to the highest bidder, at the northern end of the bridge on Canton Street, as provided by Ordinance No. 18 of Shellsburg, Iowa." (Ordinance 18 concerned livestock running loose.)

A. Bixby advertised the following closing out sale: "All millinery hats, capes and clothing. All Must Go! Will trade goods for wood, butter or eggs."

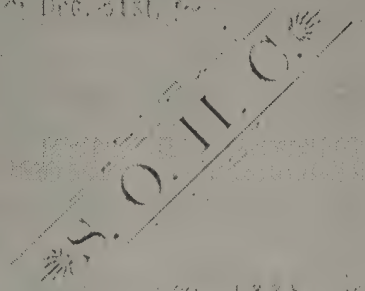
In the social column was this:

"Mrs. William Kreader entertained a number of Vinton ladies at a most delightful luncheon. The house was beautifully decorated with fall flowers, golden rod and pink and white astors being used in abundance. A pleasant hour was spent before luncheon was served in guessing the names of familiar faces cut from advertisements and fastened about the rooms on walls and curtains the one guessing the greatest number correctly receiving a dainty box of bonbons."

Walker's Creamery sometime between 1890 and 1900. It was located south of the railroad tracks — later burned down. Haulers received ten cents per 100 lbs. of cream. Separated milk was run back into the cans to be taken home. Men identified are: Cliff Robbins, Everett Parker and Fred Walker.

Dec. 31st, [illegible]

On Invitation:
William S. Burgess,
Benj. F. Child,
John M. Beaty,
Frank Dean.



On Reception:
Maxwell Vorhis,
[illegible] C. Burgess,
David K. Harbert,
Thomas Kreader.

1888

SHELLSBURG OPERA HOUSE CO.

will hold its first reception, and hop of the season in the

Shellsburg Opera House,

Monday, Evening, December 31, 1888.

Yourself and Ladies are cordially invited to be present.

Music by Beloit Quadrille Band.

TICKETS, $1 00.

FLOOR MANAGERS.

JOHN J RATHBUN. JAMES M. ELDON.

JOHN E WYANT CHAS. F STOOKEY.

Positively no Gentleman admitted unless accompanied by a Lady.

Pearl Street in the early 1900's.

Main Street in the early 1900's.

Shellsburg Volunteer Fire Department

Shellsburg has had a volunteer fire department since sometime in the 1890's. William DeFoe was fire chief about 1900. At that time there were no water mains so cisterns and the creek were used for the twelve-man hand pump and bucket brigade.

Town Hall and Fire Station

Shellsburg's community fire truck was purchased in 1945. A smaller Model T truck is kept for additional use.

Emmett Dripps has been fire chief for about 26 years. Other officers of the twenty-man volunteer fire company are: Neuel Evens, assistant chief; Clell Hoon, secretary; Eldon Lear, treasurer.

On the farmer's committee for the community truck are R. B. Hayes, Lyle McClintock and Jay Nabholz. The fire chief and mayor make up the five-man committee.

Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company

The Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company of Shellsburg was organized in 1902.

One of the earliest country lines from town was built by Fred Hite to where Carl Anderson now lives. Willow poles were used and it was not uncommon to see them sprout branches.

Former chief telephone operators were: Mrs. Delilah Williams, Pete Ness, Mrs. Ed Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Trego, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Hall, Mrs. Inez Freeman Imler, Mrs. Frank Montgomery, Mrs. Carl Demick and Mrs. Orval Blough.

Dial telephones replaced the old-style crank type phone in 1952 at a cost of less than $100,000. There are at present over 400 dial telephones in use.

The telephone board is Glenn McClintock, Earl Maxson, Vern Donels, Ralph Little, Warren Pangborn, Arnold Jensen and Jay Nabholz. The latter two recently replaced Lyle McClintock and D. C. Showman. Orval Blough is plant superintendent and Mrs. Arnold Jensen is cashier.

Shellsburg Park — started in 1908.

Shellsburg Park

The spot between the depot and town where the park now is, was, for a time a growth of forest trees and brush and was owned by the Daniels estate of Cedar Rapids. They sold it to Samuel Shannon who cleared off most of the trees.

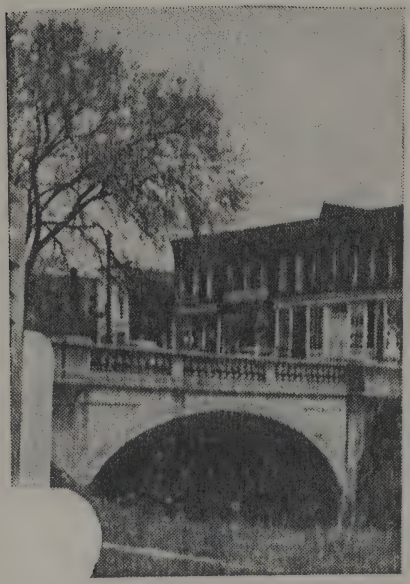
In June, 1908, L. A. Dickinson, W. W. Hatfield, C. S. Stookey, A. K. Rife and other leading citizens conceived the idea of preserving its natural beauty and creating a park. With subscriptions from the people approximately two acres of ground were purchased for two hundred and fifty dollars. The ground was rough and unkept. "The somewhat rickety, elevated board sidewalk led to town over a rattley wooden bridge, and the flickering kerosene street lamps were mounted on wooden posts."

In 1909 the W.C.T.U. improved the park by adding the sunken garden centered by a fountain and approached by three sets of steps.

The Booster Club (now the Commercial Club) wired the park, added a wading pool, swings and various other things. L. A. Dickinson planned the cable walk after several pier bridges had washed out over Bear Creek.

The large fully-equipped shelter house was built in 1952.

In 1953 a 90' by 60' cement floor was constructed. It can be used for many things, basketball and skating being two of the most popular pastimes. Flood lights have been installed so that it can be used day or night. Ray Boyer was general chairman of this community project.



Shellsburg — south end of Pearl Street

Picture taken in about the same position as one above before the new bridge was built.

Miscellaneous Information in the 1900's

The Shellsburg branch of the Iowa Canning Co. was built in 1904. Harry Bender, who was manager from 1904 until 1944, says that over 2000 acres of corn were canned in a season. Tendersweet was one of the most important brands. The canning company's products were shipped all over the world. The factory employed 200 to 250 people. In the early days corn was husked by hand and it took 70 to 80 huskers. Kerosene and gas lamps were used. The canning company was instrumental in bringing city water to Shellsburg. Bernard McIlrath was manager from 1944 until 1947 when the factory was sold to the Green Giant Co. They in turn sold it to Arnold Jensen and Vernon Owens who use it for a warehouse.

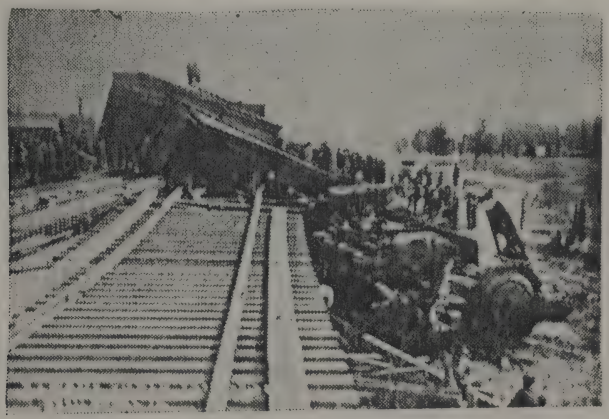
Iowa Canning Co., built in April, 1904 — used to employ several hundred people.

Everett Elson's barber shop around 1900. Shaving mugs are lined up on the left wall.

The city water works were created in 1905 with a bond issue of $4000. In 1949 there was a bond issue for $22,500 which was used for blacktopping the streets.

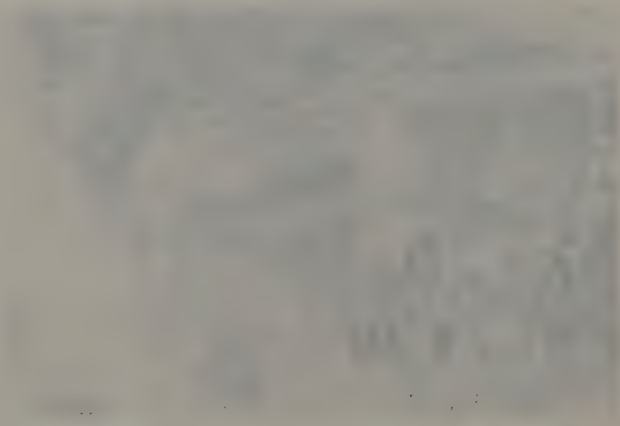
In the 1890's Wesley Hall was used as an office by Dr. McCorkle. Then Florence Shomler owned the building, after which it was sold to the Methodist Ladies Aid. For many years it was used by the Aid and also as a public meeting place for other groups. In 1952 it was sold to the Kibbie-Hyde Implement Co.

A bad train wreck in which the brakeman was killed occurred in Shellsburg on March 21, 1910.



Shellsburg's worst train wreck in which the brakeman was killed — March, 1910.

Buggies for sale. John Heath on left and Leonard Dickinson on right.



The Shomler building on the corner of Main and Pearl, which was used by the Kibbie Implement Co., burned down in 1934. The Standard Service Station has been built in its place.

Shomler's Clothing Store. — Florence Shomler on the left and Gage Coupland on the right.

Part of the crowd at a sewing machine demonstration held in front of W. M. DeFoe's store in 1913.

Mrs. Walter Linder was state archery champion from 1941-1947.

James "Sam" Carr has an airport one mile east of Shellsburg which was first used in 1947. There is a three-plane hanger with tie downs for three additional planes, and two runways, one two-thousand feet long and the other thirteen hundred feet. The field is pictured on all United States aviation maps. Last year Mr. Carr flew over 50,000 air miles under contract. He also has commercial equipment which will spray two acres a minute.

Edward Fisher is Shellsburg's only living Spanish-American War veteran.

Mrs. Jennie Roll, who was born February 14, 1861, is Shellsburg's oldest resident.

Mr. August Muschawick, 89, is the oldest man in the Shellsburg vicinity.

Rutherford Barnes has a certificate from the state for being a fifty-year pharmacist.

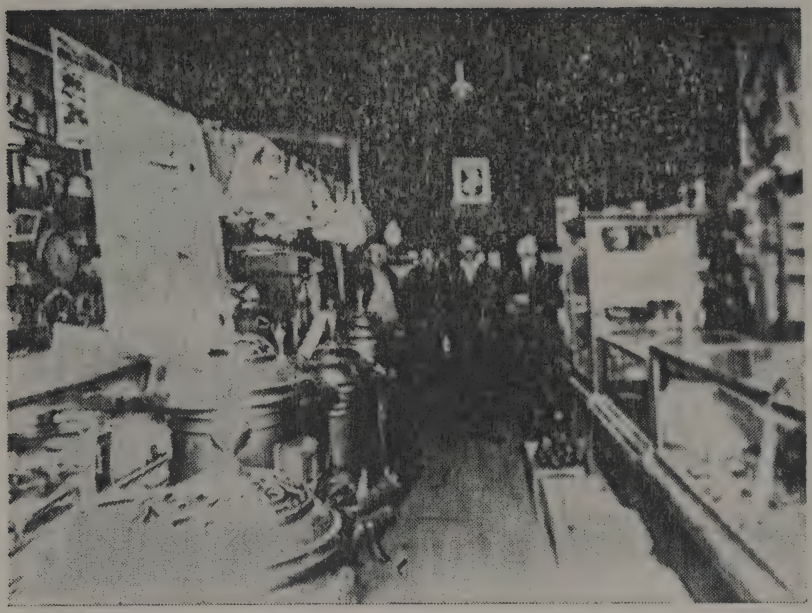
Among Shellsburg's present day active business men, Emmett Dripps is the oldest in number of years service. He has been in the garage business here since 1913. Claude Blattler has been a Shellsburg barber since 1915.

Shellsburg has two Eagle Scouts — Dale Jensen and Dennis Beatty.

Every Christmas season the Commercial Club and the Volunteer Firemen bring Santa Claus to town and have treats for the children. In the summer the Commercial Club sponsors free movies and band concerts.

Much building has been done the last few years including a number of new homes.

W. Y. Soden's Livery Barn — now removed — was located between the present Standard Service Station and J. L. Peacock's home.



General store owned by Frank King — from left to right: Charles Mullinex, Bill Gould, W. Y. Soden and Frank King.

The Shellsburg Grain and Lumber Co. lumber yard about 1918. Shirley Thompson was manager. Others in the picture were Al Budd, Joe Bigley, John Murray, John Quinn.

The Bear Creek flood waters of 1924 almost surrounded the Canton Township voting place south of the railroad tracks.

Flood of 1924 — the creamery is in the center of the picture.

An old threshing crew on the Walker farm, now George Hamilton's, about 1912. Oscar Trego is on the water wagon, Fred Walker is in the buggy and Ed Richart and Ed Wheeler are by the drive wheel of the big engine. Others identified are: William Richart, Todd Race, Ernest Greenwood, Oscar and Carlton Walker, Bent Webb, George Riggle, Sherm Trego, John Webb, Charlie Beatty and Nat Baldwin.

Shellsburg Girls' Drill Team in the early 1900's. The girls wore white blouses and red skirts and carried staffs and wooden guns. Back row, left to right, Mayme Wyant, Lyde Rutan, Belle Soden, Linnet Elson, Bertha Fish, Georgia Strawn, Nora McMahon, Lena Krueger, Prudence McMahon, Eva Files, Cleta Carver, Lora Maxson, Cora Dickinson, Winnie Thompson, Lizzie Jones, Esto Heath, Blanche Mullinex, Dessie Mullinex; front row, Ava North, Ethel Porter, Hazel Files, Verle Williams, Carrie Tarpening, Dr. William Suthers, Verna Viles, Luella Combs, Alta Moody, Alma Quinn, Lulu Krueger.

Churches

The Shellsburg Baptist church was organized in February, 1855, with about fourteen members. The Reverend Richard King was the first pastor. Reverend John W. Thompson was here for two years during which time the brick church was started. The Reverend J. W. Daniels followed and under his pastorate the church which was commenced in 1890, was dedicated September 24, 1876. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the Reverend Mr. Weaver of Vinton. Reverend Daniels made a statement of the trials undergone in completing the church especially commending Simeon Maxson, Robert Heath, William Kreader, Mr. Bixby and others for their great liberality. The church up to the time of the dedication, cost nearly $10,000 and at the meeting about enough was pledged to build the bell tower. This bell tower was removed in 1953 because of its unsafe condition.

The Baptists and Methodists are now federated. Present pastor is the Reverend Leonard Fardon.

1985173

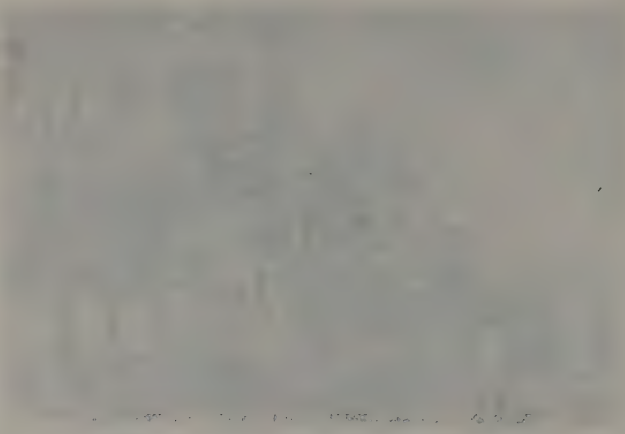
Shellsburg Federated Church.

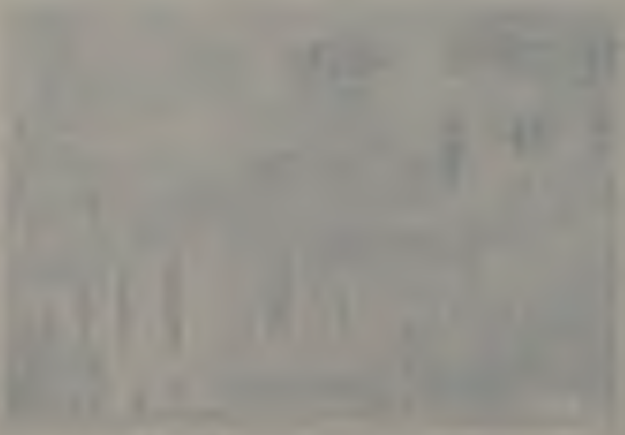
In 1856 the Methodist church was started with the Rev. B. F. Taylor as minister. The first religious edifice of the Shellsburg society was built in 1861, at a cost of $1,200, but the growth of the church membership made a larger structure necessary. In the summer of 1876 a white frame structure was erected at a cost of $2,600. In 1934, the sparks from another fire ignited the church and it burned to the ground. The location of the church was about where Dale Vogt now has his home.

Methodist Church which burned in 1934.

The New School Presbyterian group was formed one mile east of Shellsburg in 1850. In 1856 the Old School Presbyterian society was organized which was the origin of the present Presbyterian church. In 1870 the New and Old School Presbyterians were united. That same year the church was built at a cost of $2,200. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the Reverend Alexander Marshall of Marion. The first members to join the united body were John Parker, Abraham Scott, William Crawford, James Strong, Paul Miller, Mrs. Harriet Elson, Hannah Greenwood and Hannah M. Miller. The Reverend Marion Williams of Cedar Rapids is the present pastor of the Presbyterian church.

Shellsburg Presbyterian Church

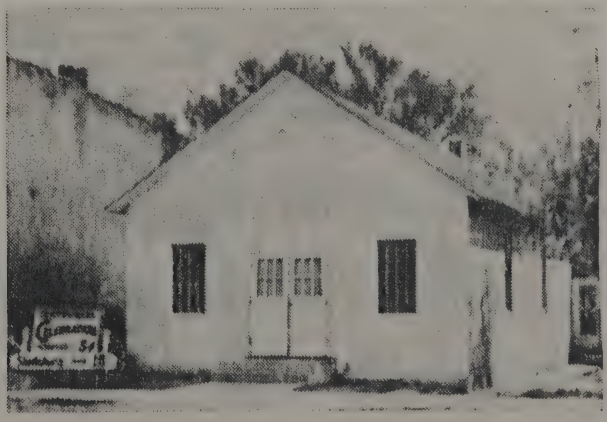




Lutheran church services were first held in Shellsburg September 4, 1938. The members met in the high school building with student William Ilten in charge. He was followed by student pastor Alvin J. Starke. After meeting several different places Zion Lutheran church was built. It was dedicated June 13, 1948, with the Reverend Edmund Frese as pastor. The cost of the church was about $21,000. Present pastor is the Reverend A. R. Aschbrenner.

Shellsburg Zion Lutheran Church

The Foursquare church was started by the Reverend Harold Meyers in October, 1937. Services were held in an old building on the same location as the present church. The new church was built in 1948 while the Reverend A. R. Iavicoli was here. He did much of the work on the church himself. The Reverend Kenneth Green is the present pastor.



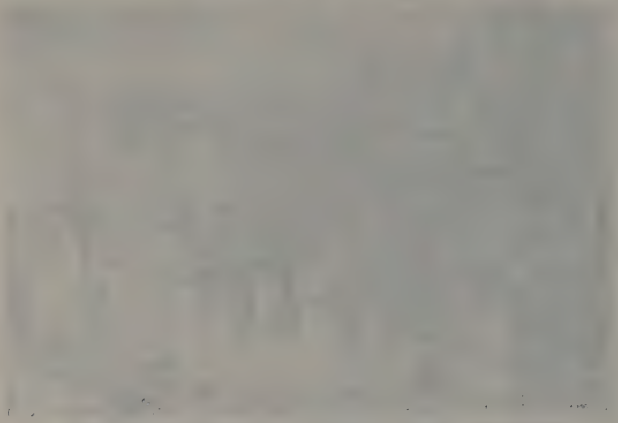
Shellsburg Foursquare Church.

Parker's Grove Baptist church was organized in 1858 with Elder Richard King as pastor. Levi Pangborn was one of the land donors to the church and helped build the first church which was completed and services first held March 31, 1860. About fifteen years later this church burned down and another was built to replace it. Present pastor is the Rev. Frank Ward of Cedar Rapids.

Parker's Grove Baptist Community Church.

The Oak Grove church history goes back to the 1850's. On September 9, 1883, the present Christian church was dedicated by Reverend Collins of Iowa City. Land had been given by Mrs. Nancy Glime and son John, and George Freeman gave an acre of land just north of the church. A. S. Kellogg did much of the work on the building. For twenty-five years he was superintendent of the church. Mrs. Clara McCulley was county secretary for the Churches of Christ for many years and helped a great deal in compiling a book on the eight churches of the county. Present minister is the Reverend Chester E. Cramer.

Oak Grove Christian Church.



George Koch is supply pastor of the Cedar Ridge Free Methodist Community church north of Shellsburg.

One of Mr. William DeFoe's many bands — sometime around 1905-1910. Back row, legt to right, Pete Bergen, Robert Moeller, Melville Montgomery, Anderson Maxwell, Clark Glimes, Ben Jones, Ralph Dickinson; second row, Royce Bergen, Russell Dickinson, Myron Budd, Russell Shomler, Arthur Dickinson; first row, Nathan Jones, Warren Pangborn, Alfred Schmidhans, Clarence Bergen, William DeFoe.

Organizations

Benton City Lodge, No. 81, A. F. & A. M., formed at Benton City in 1855, was chartered in 1856. It was moved to Shellsburg a few years later, and is probably the oldest organized lodge in town. Present elected officers are: Keith Roths, worshipful master; Dale Christianson, senior warden; Reuben Senft, junior warden; Russell Shomler, secretary; Everett Elson, treasurer. White Lily Chapter, No. 427, O.E.S. has the following officers: Helen Hyde, worthy matron; John Hyde, worthy patron; Leona Linder, associate matron; Walter Linder, associate patron; Helen Senft, conductress; Cora Christianson, associate conductress; Mattie Johnson, secretary; Dorothy Elson, treasurer.

I.O.O.F. Lodge, No. 171, was chartered in 1869. Tom Long is noble grand; John Hyde, vice-grand; Jay Nabholz, financial secretary; John Lowder, secretary; Cliff Spurgeon, treasurer. Officers of Orion Rebekah Lodge, No. 63, are Ruth Patterson, noble grand; Edith Coy, vice-grand; Mattie Robertson, secretary; Nellie Kibbie, financial secretary; Lyla Hoon, treasurer.

Reuben Senft is commander of the American Legion. Other officers are: Orval Blough, vice-president; Claude Blattler, adjutant; Tom Fish, treasurer; George Koch, chaplain; Carl Penney, service officer; Ray Boyer, sergeant-at-arms; Willis Mullinex, historian; Marvin Holmes, membership chairman. Legion Auxiliary officers are: Lora Mullinex, president; Violet Blattler, first vice-president; Genevieve England, second vice-president; Mrs. Merle Boyer, recording secretary; Bessie Maxson, treasurer; Joan Blattler, corresponding secretary; Marie Reynolds, chaplain; Mrs. Ray Boyer and Waneita Bergen, sergeants-at-arms.

The Sorosis Club, a branch of the state and national Federation of Women's Clubs, was organized in 1950. Mrs. Van Elson is president; Mrs. D. C. Showman, vice-president; Mrs. Claude Blattler, secretary and Mrs. Wayne Boyer, treasurer. Officers of the Junior Woman's Club are: Mrs. Dean Boyer, president; Mrs. Louis DeKlotz, vice-president; Mrs. Willard Peacock, secretary; Mrs. Glenn Beatty, treasurer.

Some of the other local organizations are Royal Neighbors, Junior Auxiliary, Birthday Club, Happy Twenty, O.E.S. Past Matrons, and Past Presidents of Auxiliary. Willis Mullinex and James Swope are leaders of the Boy Scouts and Delbert Primrose is Cubmaster for the Cub Scouts. The Blue Bird girls have Mrs. Everett Beatty for their leader.

Canton Township Farm Bureau director is Harry Carr and Benton Township director is Alfred Gustafson. Canton 4-H leaders are Alberta Owens and Mrs. Holice Peacock, and for the boys, Duane Dickinson. Benton 4-H leaders are Mrs. Leland Cantonwine, Mrs. Arthur Hootman, Edward Charlier and Myron Fish. Canton Homemakers officers are: Mrs. Howard Hagan, chairman; Mrs. Tom Lewis, vice-chairman; Mrs. Lloyd Yakish, secretary-treasurer. Benton Township Homemakers officers are: Mrs. Harold Kubik, chairman; Mrs. Raymond Lurch, vice-chairman and Mrs. Fred Schlotterback, secretary-treasurer.

Officers of the Lutheran Guild are: Mrs. Martin Rinderknecht, president; Mrs. Fred Loose, vice-president; Mrs. Louis DeKlotz, secretary; Mrs. A. R. Aschbrenner, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Clair Johnson, treasurer. Officers of the Federated Industrial Society are Mrs. Harold Kubik, president; Mrs. Roy McCormick, vice-president; Mrs. Earl Maxson, secretary; and Mrs. Harry Robertson, treasurer. Mrs. Earl Beatty is president of the Presbyterian Missionary Circle. Mrs. Tom Lewis is vice-president; Alberta Owens, treasurer and Mrs. Lawerence Lubbock, secretary. Mrs. Maud Cue is president of the Oak Grove C.W.F. Mrs. Frank Kubik is vice-president; Mrs. Ed King, secretary and Mrs. Willis Bruce, treasurer. Officers of the Parker's Grove Ladies Aid are: Mrs. D. C. Showman, president; Mrs. Holice Peacock, vice-president; Mrs. Malin Sturtz, secretary and Mrs. Floyd England, treasurer. There are also several church Men's Clubs and Young People's Societies.

Citizens Holding Public Offices

Canton Township trustees are Howard Hagan, D. C. Showman and Lyle McClintock. Warren Pangborn is clerk. Donald McCulley, Ralph Little and Harold Skea are Benton Township trustees and Willis Bruce is clerk.

Harold Fiebelkorn is president of the National Weldors and Blacksmith Association and vice-chairman of the Benio-lin Boy Scout District. Louis Coberly is county supervisor. Mrs. Arnold Jensen is chairman of the Benton County Federation of Women's Clubs and Mrs. Homer Sheeley is county secretary. Mrs. Harold Fiebelkorn is president of the State Weldors and Blacksmith Auxiliary.

Miss Waneita McElroy was president of the County Education Association for 1953-1954. Superintendent L. C. Johnson is vice-president of the Benton County Schoolmasters group.

Reuben Senft is chairman of the Benton County Selective Service Board. He is also a representative-at-large of the Boy Scouts. Harry Carr is a director of the Benton County Fish and Game Club. Mrs. Ray Boyer is vice-president of the County Legion Auxiliary and is sergeant-at-arms of the County Republican Women.

Jay Nabholz and Mrs. Ethel Tumilty are the Shellsburg, Benton and Canton Township assessors. Everett Beatty is on the Benton County Board of Assessment and Review. He is also a national representative of the Hawkeye Area Boy Scouts, and is president of the Benton County Lumber Dealer's Association.

Oliver Schminke is president of the county Rural Young People. Lyle McClintock is on the County Fair Board. He is also a director of the Swine Producer's Board. Glen McClintock is on the Beef Producer's Board, Vernon Owens is a director in the Sheep and Wool Grower's Association, and Arthur Roehr is a director in the Hawkeye Aberdeen-Angus Association.

Shellsburg was platted June 16, 1854. At that time there were two streets, Main and Pearl, and twenty-four lots.

The following is the courthouse record of the different additions made to Shellsburg.

	Book	Page	
Runyon's Addition	A	521	November 24, 1856
Runyon's 2nd Addition	B	607	August 24, 1860
Taylor and Runyon's Addition	D	73	April 12, 1865
Rathburn's Addition	D	366	August 10, 1866
Central Addition	I	205	December 10, 1869
Jones Addition	I	390	August 1, 1870
Kirkpatrick's Addition	I	421	August 20, 1870
Railroad Addition	I	538	February 4, 1871
Harbert's Addition	Z	295	May 13, 1891
Auditor Plats (10, 11, 12, 13)			February 24, 1923

In Memoriam

Veterans of Our Armed Forces Who Have Passed Away:

War of 1812 — Shellsburg Oakwood Cemetery

Braman Johnson

Civil War — Shellsburg Oakwood Cemetery

Ruel Baker
J. L. Bigley
Joseph Blackburn
Dr. I. S. Boles
Filmore Bowe
T. K. Cassel
James M. Elson
William Elson
Ben Franklin
William Gilchrist
Merritt Heath
L. D. Hulett
George Hurless
P. A. Jenkins
William Kibler
James Kirkpatrick
James Lahew
J. McKeen
John Meskimen
William Montgomery
Richard Moore
Ed Murray
Joseph P. Skea
James Soden
Philip Soden
Isaac Spicher
Miles Strawn
John C. Summers
Isaac F. Thompson
George Trego
William Van Dyke
Edward Z. Williams
By Proxy
Josiah A. Scott

Civil War — Strawn Cemetery

Adam Hoover
John Jones
G. W. Lightfoot
William Moody
Bruce Murray
William Strawn

Civil War — Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Archibald Race

Civil War — McBroom Cemetery

Thomas Barr
Elias Bickel
H. Mather
Thomas McBroom
Emory Powers

Civil War — Parker's Grove Cemetery

Willard Alden
O. B. Barton
John Fawcett
William Hatfield
George King
Richard R. King
William Maxson
J. A. Meek
Mrs. Adam Porter (nurse)
James R. Porter
John C. Porter
W. Y. Porter
Milo Pratt
William B. Russell
Frederick Schmidt
Fred G. Smith
Charles Soden
William Soden
Bruce Thomas
John Weir
Robert Weir
By Proxy
Enos E. Barton —
Millikens Bend, La.
William Binder
James A. Maxson —
Memphis, Tenn.

Deceased Veterans of Later Wars

Spanish-American War

George Fish (also World War I)
Charles Fluhart

World War I

Earl Dickinson
William R. Greenwood
Hollis A. Hastings
Clarence Hamman
Thomas S. Long
William A. Montgomery
Cleve Mullinex
Ralph Taggert

World War II

Raymond Engledow
John M. Fishel
William Lindquist
Richard L. Lint
Donald Peacock
Jack C. Peterman
Louis E. J. Popenhagen
Claire Moody
Mark R. Reynolds
Lyle T. Roszell
William Voris
Homer D. Woodson

Korean Conflict

Marvin D. Ferguson

Shellsburg Businesses

Shellsburg Creamery	Lloyd Yakish
Shellsburg Grain & Lumber Co.	Everett Beatty, Gen. Mgr.
Lowder Garage	John Lowder
Urbana Savings Bank, Shellsburg	Clell Hoon, cashier
Chris's Popcorn Stand	Chris Little
Eldon's Tavern	Eldon Nelson
Blattler's Barber Shop	Claude Blattler
Shellburg Post Office	Kathleen Nettell, postmaster
Farmer's Mutual Telephone Co.	Mrs. Arnold Jensen, cashier Orval Blough, plant supt.
Farmer's Market & Home Cafe	Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McIlrath
Beauty Shop	Mrs. Robert Liken
Friendly Tap & Grill	Eldon Doty
Bowling Alley	Chris Little
Cox Feed Store	Ed Cox
Donels Hybrid Corn	Vern Donels
Clymer's Radio and TV	Dan Clymer
Phillips 66 Station	Fred Loose
Shellsburg Radio & TV	Oliver Zahn
Reynold's Insurance	Mark Reynolds
Harbert & Linder Insurance	Walter Linder
McIlrath's Custom Drainage	Robert McIlrath
Perry Photo Finishing	Jay Perry
Lear Brothers carpenters	Paul and Eldon Lear
Dripps Garage	Emmett Dripps
Contractor	Robert Bergen
Vogt Truck Line	Dale Vogt
Trucker	Delbert Primrose
Shellsburg Welding	Harold Fiebelkorn
Standard Service	Merle Boyer, Ray Boyer & Robert Bull
Bookkeeping, Tax Service	Arnold Jensen
Hyde Implement	John and Dick Hyde
Shell Gas Station	Orel Strawhacker
Reu-lens Sundries	Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Senft
Roy & Virginia Cafe	Mr. and Mrs. Roy Harrelson
Clover Farm Store	Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fish
Shellsburg Hardware	Mr. and Mrs. Tom Maxwell
Jack Sprat Grocery	George Koch-Carl Falcon
Matheny Dry Goods	Dale Matheny
Burger Printing	Merl Burger
Shellsburg Frozen Foods	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Groth
Hopper Plumber & Electrician	Don Hopper
Depot	Okke Boomgaarden
Mor-Max Turkey Farm	Earl Maxsen, Mgr.
Silvaire Sales	James Carr
Plasterers	Mason Bros.

Shellsburg Centennial

The Shellsburg Centennial is being observed on June 18 and 19, 1954, although the town was actually platted on June 16, 1854.

Plans have been made to have free acts, antique displays, speakers, a "Pioneers of '54" parade, band concerts, a pageant and a dance. The men have grown beards and the ladies are wearing sun bonnets.

Centennial committee chairmen include: Harold Fiebelkorn and Reuben Senft, general chairmen; Orval Blough, secretary; Bill Keel and Carl Penney, finance; Mark Reynolds and L. C. Johnson, publicity; Willis Mullinex, parade; Mrs. Everett Beatty, pageant; Tom Fish, displays; John Lowder and Arthur Roehr, concessions; Bernard McIlrath and Glenn McClintock, entertainment; Earl Maxson, food; Ray Boyer and Louie DeKlotz, dance.

Centennial Pageant

Scene 1—Early Indians.....Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts

Scene 2—Pioneers around 1840.....
.....Canton Township Farm Bureau

Scene 3—First Election in Benton County at Parker's Grove.....Parker's Grove Community

Scene 4—First Postoffice, Potato Hill, 1851.....
.....Rebekahs and I.O.O.F.

Scene 5—How Shellsburg Was Named..O.E.S. and Masons

Scene 6—Coming of the Railroad in 1869.....
.....Benton Township Farm Bureau

Scene 7—Shellsburg Incorporated, 1870.....
.....Present Mayor and Council

Scene 8—Gay Nineties.....Sorosis (Woman's Club)

Scene 9—Early Firefighting .....Volunteer Firemen

Scene 10—Graduating Class
First class graduated with twelve grades.....
.....Original 11 and Supt. Johnson

Scene 11—World Wars.....American Legion and Auxiliary

Scene 12—Crank Type and Dial Telephone.....
.....Canton and Benton 4H Clubs

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    Hawkeye-Record Press.

Courthouse records and old deeds and land grants have contained helpful information as well as old newspapers and clippings.

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It has sometimes been difficult to obtain accurate information as historical accounts do not always agree. Also the names of important and deserving people may have unintentionally been omitted. However we have tried to do our best and hope that the readers may find the history both informative and interesting.

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